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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 0056

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, MNUC

SUBJECT: NPG TECHNOLOGY STUDY-PHASE II REPORT

REF: A. STATE 1593

B. USNATO 6952

SUMMARY. THIS MESSAGE PROVIDES MISSION COMMENTS REQUESTED IN REF A ON SCHEDULING AND CONTENT OF THE FIRST MEETING OF FULL STUDY PANEL OF THE NPG TECHNOLOGY STUDY. END SUMMARY.

1. MISSION INFORMED STUDY PARTICIPANTS PER REF A THAT US AGREES TO HOLD, DURING WEEK OF 20 JANUARY 1975, FIRST MEETING OF THE FULL STUDY PANEL OF THE NPG TECHNOLOGY STUDY AS WELL AS INFORMAL DISCUSSION OF THE PHASE II REPORT BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PHASE II STUDY TEAM, THE NPG STAFF GROUP (SG) AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM CAPITALS. AT 6 JANUARY SG MEETING, US REP (WOODORTH) PROPOSED 20-22 JANUARY DATES FOR THESE MEETINGS. SG REACTED VERY FAVORABLY TO US PROPOSAL AND ACCEPTED, SUBJECT IN A FEW CASES TO CONFIRMATION BY CAPITALS, DATES WHICH US PROPOSED.

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2. MISSION WELCOMES OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON WASHINGTON PROPOSALS FOR STUDY APPROACH/AGENDA FOR FIRST MEETING OF FULL STUDY PANEL. DISCUSSION ITEMS LISTED IN REF A, PARA 4, SEEM APPROPRIATE, AND TWO DAYS, AS SUGGESTED, SHOULD

PROVIDE ADEQUATE TIME TO ACHIEVE PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING. MISSION RECOMMENDS SCHEDULING FOR AFTERNOON OF 20 JANUARY DISCUSSION OF THE PHASE II REPORT, WHICH WE BELIEVE WOULD PROVIDE A USEFUL BACKGROUND FOR THE NPG TECHNOLOGY STUDY MEETINGS TO FOLLOW. THE TECHNOLOGY STUDY MEETING COULD THEN TAKE PLACE ON 21 AND 22 JANUARY. MISSION SUGGESTS THAT THE FULL STUDY PANEL, WITH MGEN MCAULIFFE AS CHAIRMAN, DEVOTE ALL OF 21 JANUARY TO DISCUSSION OF SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS. THE 21 JANUARY MEETING COULD BEGIN WITH A GENERAL REVIEW OF THE NEED FOR THE STUDY, BRIEFING BY US, AND A GENERAL DISCUSSION OF POLITICAL AND MILITARY ASPECTS OF THE NEW TECHNOLOGY IN QUESTION. THE STUDY PANEL COULD THEN DISCUSS IN GENERAL TERMS THE SCOPE, METHODOLOGY, ASSUMPTIONS, FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION, AND BROAD PARAMETERS TO GOVERN THE STUDY OF "IMPLICATIONS" OF TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES.

3. THE 22 JANUARY MEETING WOULD BE LARGELY ORGANIZATIONAL, TO LAY OUT TIMING, NATIONAL PARTICIPATION, COORDINATION, WORK PROGRAMS, ETC. WHILE MISSION BELIEVES THAT A REPRESENTATIVE FROM WASHINGTON SHOULD CHAIR THIS DISCUSSION, USNATO WILL PROVIDE CHAIRMAN, IF NECESSARY. MISSION WOULD EXPECT THAT PART OF 22 JANUARY, AND 23 JANUARY, IF NECESSARY, COULD BE USED BY WORKING GROUPS ASSIGNED BY THE FULL STUDY PANEL TO ORGANIZE THEIR STUDY PROGRAMS, DEVELOP THEIR OWN DETAILED TERMS OF REFERENCE, INTERNAL SCHEDULES, ETC.

4. MISSION QUESTIONS VALUE OF, AND FORESEES SOME DIFFICULTY IN, DIVIDING FULL STUDY PANEL INTO TWO GROUPS TO DETERMINE PARAMETERS THAT WOULD GOVERN THE STUDY OF "MILITARY IMPLICATIONS" AND "POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS" AS SUGGESTED IN PARA 4 OF REF A. THERE WILL BE ONLY RELATIVELY SHORT TIME AVAILABLE FOR EXCHANGE OF IDEAS AMONG FULL STUDY PANEL, AND PARTICIPANTS WILL NOT HAVE UNDERTAKEN ADVANCE PREPARATIONS THAT WOULD MAKE WORK IN SMALLER GROUPS FULLY PRODUCTIVE. FURTHERMORE, ALL MEMBERS OF THE FULL STUDY PANEL WILL WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN DEVELOPMENT OF BROAD PARAMETERS TO GOVERN THE STUDY, WHILE THE INDIVIDUAL WORKING GROUPS WILL LATER

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DEVELOP AND REFINES THE NARROW OR SPECIFIC PARAMETERS AS THE STUDY DEVELOPS.

5. THE US PAPER CIRCULATED ON DECEMBER 13 (REF B) SUGGESTED THREE WORKING GROUPS TO DO DETAILED ANALYSIS: TECHNICAL, MILITARY, AND POLITICAL. WE BELIEVE THAT FULL STUDY PANEL WILL WELCOME CHAIRMANSHIP OF WORKING GROUPS BY UK, FRG, AND US, AND DISCUSSED BY US/UK/FRG STAFF LEVEL REPRESENTATIVES ON DECEMBER 10 IN BRUSSELS. ASSUMING THIS TO BE THE CASE, MISSION SUGGESTS WE PROPOSE TO UK AND FRG REPS HERE THAT EACH WORKING GROUP CHAIRMAN BRING TO THE MEETING AN OUTLINE OF INITIAL IDEAS FOR HOW HE WOULD ENVISAGE ACCOMPLISHING HIS PARTICULAR ASSESSMENT. EACH

COULD PRESENT HIS OUTLINE TO THE FULL STUDY PANEL, AND DRAW ON DISCUSSION AND SUGGESTIONS OF PANEL MEMBERS IN DEVELOPING SPECIFIC TERMS OF REFERENCE IN SUBSEQUENT SEPARATE MEETINGS OF THE WORKING ROUPS. MISSION BELIEVES THIS PROCEDURE COULD SERVE IN LIEU OF THE APPROACH SUGGESTED IN PARA 4 OF REF A. IT WOULD HAVE THE ADVANTAGE OF PERMITTING ADVANCE PREPARATION OF OUTLINES BY THE WORKING GROUP CHAIRMEN, WHICH WOULD AID IN FOCUSING PANEL DISCUSSION, AND WOULD ALLOW ALL PANEL MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE IN DISCUSSIONS OF PLANNING FOR EACH OF PROPOSED WORKING GROUP ASSESSMENTS. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON APPROVAL OF PROPOSAL FOR PREPARATION OF OUTLINES BY WORKING GROUP CHAIRMEN.

6. AT THE INFORMAL MEETING ON DECEMBER 10, US, UK AND FRG REPS AGREED TO PROPOSE TO FULL STUDY PANEL THAT UK, FRG AND US CHAIR TECHNICAL, MILITARY AND POLITICAL WORKING GROUPS, RESPECTIVELY. MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT WASHINGTON RECONSIDER PROPOSED ASSIGNMENTS AND THT USNATO PROMPTLY PROPOSE AN EXCHANGE BETWEEN US AND FRG. SINCE US WILL OF NECESSITY PROVIDE BULK OF MILITARY INFORMATION OF INTEREST TO STUDY PANEL, AND BECAUSE THE RESULTS OF THE MILITARY ASSESSMENT WILL LIKELY INFLUENCE SUBSTANTIALLY THE OUTCOME OF THE POLITICAL ASSESSMENT, MISSION BELIEVES IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR US TO CHAIR THE MILITARY WORKING GROUP. WE RECALL THAT FRG INITIALLY WANTED TO CHAIR THE POLITICAL WORKING GROUP, AND BELIEVE THAT THEY WOULD WELCOME THE EXCHANGE. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE ON MISSION PROPOSAL TO "SWAP" CHAIRMANSHIPS BETWEEN US AND FRG. CONFIDENTIAL

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7. MISSION AGREES WITH WASHINGTON (REF A, PARA 3) THAT WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY BRIEFING PRESENTED BY SECDEF AT THE JUNE 1974 NPG MEETING WOULD BE USEFUL PART OF US INPUT TO FIRST FULL STUDY PANEL MEETING. THIS BRIEFING, UPDATED AND EXPANDED AS APPROPRIATE, WOULD PROVIDE SUBSTANTIVE BASIS FOR DISCUSSION TO LAUNCH TECHNOLOGY STUDY.

8. REQUEST WASHINGTON PROVIDE AN AGENDA FOR TECHNOLOGY STUDY MEETING FOR MISSION TO CIRCULATE TO STUDY PARTICIPANTS. BRUCE

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